

**Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC) Executive Committee Meeting  
September 26, 2019 - MCDHS – 1 Medical Drive, Morris Plains**

**Meeting began at 10:02 a.m.**

**Voting Members Present:**

Jeffrey Bashe, Community Rep; Terry Connolly, Community Soup Kitchen; Russ Hall, Housing Alliance of MC; Kesha Moore, Drew University; Gwen Rippey, Atlantic Health; David Scott, Jacob Gaeta, Market Street Mission and Rebekka Zydel, Child & Family Resources.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Allison Delcalzo, Atlantic Health; Joann Bjornson, Family Promise; Janice Kaniewski, NJ211; Laurie Litt, NJAS, Dan McGuire, Homeless Solutions; Maria Fodali, MC Office of Temporary Assistance and Diane Williams, JBWS.

**Voting Members Absent:**

Mike Armstrong, Community Hope.

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

Rose Brown, MHA.

**Staff and Consultants Present:**

Amy Archer, Laurie Becker, Shelia Carter, Patricia Mocarski, Sharon Yoo, Morris County Human Services; Phyllis Tonnesen, OTA and Jay Everett, Monarch Housing.

**Others Present:**

Dominic Costanzo, Homeless Solutions, Inc.

**I. Introductions & Approve Minutes**

All were welcomed and introductions made. Ms. Zydel asked the group to share why they are involved with the CoC.

- Ms. Zydel – As a healthy community we are all in this together. Helping others enriches ourselves.
- Ms. Connolly She always worked on the agency level. As part of this group, we need to create a system that gets people access to the help they need and serves their best interests.
- Ms. Mocarski – She is the meeting note taker and likes the collaborative work this committee does to help others.
- Ms. Yoo – It is important to have group leaders that care and collectively serve the community and the people that need help. She loves the work each person here does.
- Ms. Litt – She has been coming to county meetings since 1987 starting with the CEAS meetings. She has learned a lot in 32 years. From a systems perspective it is interesting and at times frustrating. We have many of the same problems as we did years ago transportation, homelessness, etc. She has seen many changes. We

all make a big impact and change lives. It helps to keep our own life in perspective.

- Ms. Tonnesen – She came to the county as a social worker in 1980. At times, it is frustrating since there are still many of the same problems. Hoping through these meetings we can help make more housing available and work together to accomplish bigger projects. We need to look at the bigger picture.
- Ms. Fodali – She is an Administrative Supervisor of social work and used to work for Family Promise. She loves being a social worker and believes in treating everyone with dignity and respect. She loves the county meetings, collaborating and bringing providers to the table.
- Ms. Delcalzo – She is a Morristown Medical Center HIV counselor. She works with many different people and at the end of the day, the lack of stable housing affects all populations. She wants to do higher systems work.
- Ms. Bjornson – She started at Homeless Solutions and knew it was her calling. She is passionate about many things and believes we need to make effective change on all system levels and develop friendships, partnerships and relationships as part of the bigger picture. She has the opportunity to work with many people. Morris County has many great relationships.
- Ms. Williams – She is the CEO of JBWS. Social work chose her. She grew up in Morris County and lives here. Homelessness is an important system issue and requires systemic responsibility.
- Mr. Bashe – He grew up in NYC in a low-income family. At the end of his career, he started volunteering for United Way. He got into the human services volunteer network. He has been around for years and has worked with the county and various agencies giving back. The CoC formed 5-6 years ago and he volunteered to be on this committee.
- Ms. Hall – He is the Chair of the Housing Alliance and on the Board of the Food Pantry and the Housing Authority. For years, he got involved with the hunger movement and Habitat in Newark. He believes that all people are entitled to food, shelter, education and healthcare. This a challenging battle and things need to change.
- Mr. Everett – He went through school convinced that the job he was looking for did not exist. He was interested in homelessness and housing. Then he found Monarch. He interviewed and a few months later was hired. His parents volunteered at church that made space for homeless folks in the winter.
- Ms. Archer – She is new to these meetings. All are affected by homelessness. She is looking forward to building relationships.
- Ms. Rippey – She works for Morristown Medical Center and is grateful to be part of this group. She has been in healthcare for years. Housing and homelessness affects health. She is working with those around the table to try to keep people healthier.
- Mr. Costanzo – This is his first time attending this meeting. He is employed by and lives at Homeless Solutions. He is concerned about housing.
- Mr. McGuire – It is great networking with people and good to gather information.
- Mr. Gaeta – He is replacing Mr. Scott from the Market Street Mission. They deal with addictions and homelessness. He is happy to be in a position to help people.

- Mr. David Scott – He has worked at the Market Street Mission for 30 years. . He has seen about 2,000 guys spend time at the mission. The Mission is changing lives.
- Ms. Becker –She had no idea that her life’s work would be almost 22 years working for the County. It has been special working with all of you, traveling to state and leadership meetings and meeting with the folks we serve. We try to make a difference and talk to the folks we serve. It helps us be grounded and is a privilege. Ms. Archer will assume her role and she will miss all.
- Ms. Carter – She has been with Human Services for 17 years and has always cared about and been interested in people and how they arrived where they are. She has been through some tough times as a single divorced parent and it is a privilege to work, grow and learn here. We work with so many people and all work well together. There is still a housing situation but as a system, we are trying to do great work. Morris County is stellar.
- Ms. Moore – She works for Drew and has a long-standing commitment to housing justice. This is her first job doing housing research and policy work. She is trying to make a difference in her home county.

Ms. Kesha Moore made a motion to approve the July 25 minutes. Mr. Jeff Bashe seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition and one abstention. Motion carried.

## II. Discussion –

### **Morris Advisory Leadership group (Report provided/attached)**

#### **System Strategies/Strategic Planning**

Rebekka Zydel said the committee identified the need to move forward with strategic planning, but to do strategic planning without a solid Coordinated Entry system would be setting ourselves back. There were conversations with Terry Connolly, Janice Kaniewski, other providers and herself regarding the Coordinated Entry (CE). There are significant challenges to how the system is functioning and we need to address them because a solid Coordinated Entry system is the foundation to move the CoC forward. Policies and procedures for CE were developed based on nationwide best practices. Now that we are a year into implementation, it is time to re-evaluate the CE process. Is the current CE process working? Are the challenges providers are reporting system/process challenges or implementation challenges? Does changing the CE process truly achieve the outcomes the CoC has identified? Are there quality assurance measures in place to assure the most vulnerable consumers are being served?

Rebekka Zydel posed the following questions for consideration: Why not let the shelters pick the person with the highest score and manage the waiting list directly? Are we maintaining the intent/integrity of Coordinated Entry? Do we need to be concerned with segregated duties if a program staff member works directly from the waiting list? Does changing the CE process create competitiveness or give anyone an advantage?

Concerns expressed by EC members:

- Shelter providers are picking who they want to take into shelter if they are having trouble reaching the next client on the list and there is no transparency or accountability.
- The most vulnerable clients are not being served. Perhaps the assessment tool requires more logic model questions. For example, when a caller answers yes, they live in Morris County, a follow up question should be asked such as, how long have you resided in Morris County.
- CE data reporting needs to be better. Data was needed on the number of people who are disabled and under 65 for a housing authority grant application and it was not available.
- As a CoC are we actually getting what we need from the way we've set up the process and the providers we've chosen to implement it? As we gain more experience with CE we're learning more about what we need, and we need to reassess how we're implementing.
- We are looking at each challenge in isolation instead of looking at the big picture-from a systems perspective. It's not a good practice to change process as a reaction to a problem, we should be considering how the process is being implemented first.
- We may be blurring the Coordinate Entry Committee and CE Program Management responsibilities and we need to better define the roles and responsibilities of each. The roles, responsibilities and job descriptions of the CE committee, 211 Program Manager and Resource Navigators also need to be reviewed and more clearly defined.
- 211 is the call center and is taking data, they are not a service provider like shelters and housing agencies. 211 needs to manage the process and perhaps they do not understand the scope of the project management that is needed, or maybe there's not enough money in their contract. It's the role of the program manager at 211 to work these issues out and it should not be decided by the CoC.

It was suggested that a Leadership Committee of CE be re-instated to develop policies and procedures.

Janice Kaniewski submitted her resignation as Chair of the Coordinated Entry Committee (CE) effective January 2020. Ms. Connolly will Co-Chair to the end of the year and Ms. Zydel will also attend the meetings to help with the leadership piece and pull together a subcommittee.

### **III. Comments**

#### **Committee Questions**

##### **Lead Agency Report (Report Provided/Attached) – Sharon Yoo**

The planning grant will go out early next month and Ms. Archer will report on it.

There was a meeting earlier this week about Code Blue. The Office of Emergency Management hosted it. They invited those involved in public safety, hospitals, nonprofits involved and hosts of the warming centers. They gave an overview of the process. They are encouraging municipalities to have warming centers. Mr. Jeff Paul distributed information. It is helpful when nonprofits share services and provide them to the warming centers.

Homeless Solutions is still providing space when a Code Blue is called.

Morris County is finalizing the Complete Count Committee and applying for funding as a county. There is a link for nonprofits to apply.

##### **Nominating Committee – Terry Connolly**

Bylaws are under review by Probono Partnership. The nominating committee is Rob Meredith, Allison Delcalzo-Berens, Sheila Carter and Terry Connolly. They are putting together nominees. Several members are rolling off as they timed out. Some have served two three-year terms. Ms. Connolly, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Hall are left. They have a great list going of new potential members. The membership list will be presented to the CAS for a vote in November. We need at least six new members and terms will be staggered to prevent so many people from going off the committee at the same time.

##### **Allocations – Gwen Rippey, Jay Everett**

Mr. Everett will send around Exhibit 1 and it will be posted on the County website this afternoon. The proposal is due Sept. 30. All have submitted project applications. Please review and submit comments to Mr. Everett by Monday.

##### **Community Assistance Services Committee/Data Quality/Youth Services/Childcare Workgroup/Veterans (Reports Provided/Attached)**

The Veterans Committee is looking for a representative to serve on their committee. It was suggested that they email the Market Street Mission.

##### **Project Homeless Connect (Report Provided/Attached)**

Project Homeless Connect will be on Jan. 23. The Point-in-Time will be the following week. It was too difficult to try to do both at the same time.

##### **Coordinated Entry (Report Provided/Attached)**

##### **Permanent Housing & Public Policy (Report Provided/Attached) – Russ Hall & Jeff Bashe**

The current focus is on establishing a Homeless Trust Fund. The fair market rent has gotten a little better and he believes we will get a fair hearing.

**IV. New Business –**

Mr. Bashe stated that at the HSAC they discussed youth homelessness and LGBTQ+ and more information is needed. Ms. Delcalzo-Berens is working on training and we will need better data.

Mr. Williams said that October is Domestic Violence month. Purple Thursday is Oct. 24. There are many events scheduled. She will send out the information. There will be a Proclamation on Oct. 7 at 9:30 a.m.

**V. Adjourn**

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Mocarski  
Administrative Assistant